

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Original) In a distributed file system that stores encrypted files across multiple computers, a method comprising:  
modifying one or more of the encrypted files;  
computing a hash value of each modified encrypted file;  
collecting the hash values into a group;  
computing a hash value of the group; and  
digitally signing the hash value of the group of hash values.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the modified encrypted file includes a metadata stream containing a header and an indexing structure, the indexing structure including hashes of the files and a structure to access the hashes of the files, the computing a hash value of each modified encrypted file further comprising deriving a hash of the header and at least part of the structure.

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the modified encrypted file includes a metadata stream containing a header, per user information, and an indexing tree, the indexing tree including hashes of the files, branch nodes to access the hashes, and a root node, the computing a hash value of each modified encrypted file further comprising hashing as a single composite the header, the per user information, and the root node.

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2 12. (Original) A data structure, embodied on a computer-readable  
3 medium, produced by the method of claim 9.

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5 13. (Original) One or more computer readable media comprising  
6 computer-executable instructions that, when executed, perform the method as  
7 recited in claim 9.

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9 14. (Original) One or more computer readable media comprising  
10 computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing device  
11 to:

12 modify individual files stored in a serverless distributed file system;  
13 compute a hash value of each modified file;  
14 collect the hash values into a group; and  
15 digitally signing the group of hash values.

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17 15. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim  
18 14, wherein the modified file includes a metadata stream containing a header and  
19 an indexing structure, the indexing structure including hashes of the files and a  
20 structure to access the hashes of the files, the media further comprising computer-  
21 executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing device to derive a  
22 hash of the header and at least part of the structure.

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24 16. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim  
25 14, wherein the modified file includes a metadata stream containing a header, per

1 user information, and an indexing tree, the indexing tree including hashes of the  
2 files, branch nodes to access the hashes, and a root node, the media further  
3 comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a  
4 computing device to hash as a single composite the header, the per user  
5 information, and the root node.

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7 17. (Currently amended) One or more computer readable media  
8 comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct one or  
9 more computing devices to store a [[A]] data structure stored on a computer-  
10 readable medium comprising:

11 representations of modifications made to multiple files stored in a  
12 distributed file system; and

13 a digital signature covering at least part of the representations to indicate  
14 that the modifications were made by a user with the signature.

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16 18. (Currently amended) One or more computer readable media ~~A data~~  
17 ~~structure~~ as recited in claim 17, wherein the representations comprise hashes of  
18 data in each file that is affected by the modifications.

19  
20 19. (New) A method comprising:

21 storing representations of modifications made to multiple files stored in a  
22 distributed file system; and

23 storing a digital signature covering at least part of the representations to  
24 indicate that the modifications were made by a user with the signature.

1           20.   (New) A method recited in claim 19, wherein the representations  
2   comprise hashes of data in each file that is affected by the modifications.  
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